

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2008

From: Eric Delgado

Subject: Initial POLREP
Gerdau Ameristeel
300 Ward St., Midlothian, TX

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:
Reporting Period:	5/27/2008	D.O. #:
Start Date:	5/27/2008	Response Authority: CERCLA
Mob Date:	5/27/2008	Response Type: Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:
Completion Date:		Incident Category:
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #
RCRIS ID #:		

Site Description

At approximately 2030 hours on 26 May 2008, a fire started in a scrap metal pile at the Gerdau Ameristeel facility in Midlothian, Ellis County, Texas. The scrap pile consisted of miscellaneous bundles of scrap metals, automobiles and other large pieces of scrap metals. The facility and 5 local fire departments have responded to the fire. No evacuations are in place and no injuries have been reported.

The facility representatives notified the TCEQ at approximately 0530 hours on 27 May 2008 of the fire. The TCEQ notified US EPA Region 6 Prevention and Response Branch. US EPA On-Scene Coordinator Eric Delgado and EPA START-3 contractors were mobilized the scene at 0600 hours 27 May 2008.

Current Activities

The facility and the local fire departments are continuing to put water on the fire. Additionally, facility contractors are using heavy equipment to remove scrap metal from the pile to increase access of firefighting water to the fire. Firefighting crews used liquid nitrogen in an attempt to cool and extinguish the fire with limited effects.

The facility is in the process of containing all runoff from firefighting operations at the site. Water containment activities commenced at approximately 1000 hours on 27 May 2008. The firefighting water at this time is leaving the site at Outfall 001. The pH of the water is between 10 and 100 standard units and has a burnt odor and a dark color. Facility representatives have collected grab water samples for further analysis. According to TCEQ representatives, a fish kill has been seen in a creek that contains the outfall from the facility.

START-3 contractors are conducting air monitoring on and off-site to determine the scope of the plume and to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

EPA ASPECT plane over flew the fire at approximately 0800 hours on 27 May 2008. Their preliminary data indicated low levels of sulfur dioxide and 1,3 Butadiene.

The facility has contracted with the Center for Environmental Toxicology (CTEH) out of Little Rock, Arkansas to provide environmental consulting help, including air monitoring and sampling capabilities. The facility has also contracted with Eagle Construction and Environmental and Hulcher Services to provide environmental and firefighting response capabilities.

Planned Removal Actions

The facility will continue to remove scrap from the pile in order to continue to extinguish the fire. The facility will stop all firefighting water from leaving the site until it can be determined that no off-site

receptors are being impacted. The PRP response contractors will recycle the collected run off water by using it to extinguish the fire.

Next Steps

CTEH will perform air sampling and monitoring in the surrounding area. EPA and the PRP will conduct split sampling of run off water.

Key Issues

Coordination between the facility, Local, State and Federal authorities in protecting human health and the environment.

Weather reports indicate a chance of rain and thunderstorms in the immediate forecast for the area, increasing the amount of run off from the site.

Containing all firefighting water runoff to mitigate off-site impacts.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/gerdaumeristeel